and Asia and are new looking at new markets in some developing countries.

(d) There is no specific recommendation in regard to the export of Commercial Vehicles in the Abid Hussain Committee report.

Rationalisation of Tax System

2078. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are continuously trying to simplify and rationalize the tax system in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the measures being taken tole t the resulting tax system help the self-employed youth, women entrepreneurs and the physically handicapped people engaged in active entrepreneurship?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir. It has been the constant endeavour of the Government to simplify and rationalize tax system in the country.

(b) The measures undertaken for simplification and rationalization of tax system are intended to benefit all. No special measures have been taken exclusively for the category of self-employed youth, women entrepreneurs or physically handicapped people engaged in active entrepreneurship. The Income Tax Act provides tax incentive to blind and physically handicapped persons by way of a deduction of a sum of Rs. 15,000|- from their gross annual income.

Assistance from Financial Institutions

2079. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement of the Orissa Chief Minister that 'the eastern region has not received its due share of assistance from the All-India financial institutions' as published in the Telegraph dated the 22nd December, 1987;

(b) if so, to what extent the above statement is correct; and

(c) whether there is any shortfall, if so, what steps have been taken to correct the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Available data relating to cumulative per capita assistance disbursed to the States mentioned below by the Financial Institutions upto the end of March, 1987 are given below:

(in Rupees)

State	Per capita assistance dibursed
1. Bihar . . .	109 90
2. Orissa . .	328.85
3. Sikkim . . .	418.67
4. West Bengal . .	334.38
All India . .	425 41

State-wise distribution of assistance of financial institutions depends upon the number of applications for viable projects originating from different States and, *inter-alia,* locational decisions of entrepreneurs. Locational decisions of entrepreneurs in turn depend upon factors which include availability of skilled labour, power and other infrastructural facilities and proximity to markets.

With a view to encouraging industrialisation in specified backward area, institutions provide financial assistance on concessional terms to units set up in the backward areas.

Demand for Jharkhand State

2080. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the continuing agitation on the demand for a separate Jharkhand State; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government considers that such demands arise on account of economic imbalances and such imbalances in a particular State or region should be tackled through the mechanism of planning and that the creation of a separate State may not be the answer to the problem.

President's Police Medals

2081. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that President's Police medals and/or meritorious and distinguished service medals have recently been given to a few police officers of Madhya Pradesh in spite of complaints by several Members of Parliament that these officers had served the political ends of certain vested interests in the discharge of their duties;

(b) whether the High Court of Madhya Pradesh has in its order dated the 30th November, 1987 in Crl. Revision No. 185/87 ruled that these very officers had acted in a *malafide* manner further substantiating the allegations of the aforesaid Members of Parliament;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for giving these awards in spite of the fact that in future such politically motivated Court severly indicting these officers had been brought to the notice of the Central Governmnt; and

(d) what remedial action Government propose to take to ensure that the aforesaid wrong is corrected and also to ensure that in future such politically motivated police officers are not unduly rewarded at the highest national level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) The President's Police Medal for distinguished service and Police Medal for meritorious service to some police officers were awarded on the occasion of Republic Day, 1987. As per complaints received, these officers were allgd to have acted maliciously and unlawfully against some individuals. Since the awards are made on the basis of recommendations received from the State Governments/Union Territories etc., the complaints were brought to the notice of the concerned State Government for appropriate action. The State Government had intimated that on enquiry, the allegations made against the police officers were not proved.

Another complaint has been received recently with a copy of the High Court judgement dated 30.11 87 in Crl. Revision No. 185/87. This has also been sent to the State Government for immediate enquiry and report.

Seizures of Gold in Bombay

2082. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report which appeared in 'The Hindustan Times' dated the 12th January, 1988 wherein it has been stated that Air-Intelligence Unit has seized gold worth Rs. 20 crores in Bombay;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether any arrests have been made and action taken by Government against the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Although, the caption of the news-item reads "20 crores worth gold seized